

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Board of Directors
Meeting Date: July 2, 2012

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker, Ray Sanders, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

All board members were present.

Also in attendance:

Jed Fisher, Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; and Michele Haarr, Clerk

Others Present:

Sharon Hopkins – Bigfork Advisory Committee

Cliff Kipp – Foys to Blacktail Trails/Montana Conservation Corps

Tamara Tanberg – Lakeside Advisory Committee

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation, was held in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana, on July 2, 2012. The meeting convened at 8:32AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the June 4, 2012 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Clyde Fisher made a motion to approve the June 4, 2012 minutes.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor, ~ the motion was carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Sharon Hopkins reported that the group is waiting for the next step in the kayak installation. Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett will check in with Planning & Zoning regarding requirements.

Superintendent Jed Fisher stated there is a hold on the Foys Lake Access steps and Bitterroot fencing to be sure due diligence is completed. When projects are within 100' of the water special permitting may be required.

The next project is the Lake Hills Park perimeter pathway. Adjacent landowners will be polled.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

There was no one present.

Foys to Blacktail Trails

Trails – Cliff Kipp reported that Applied Materials worked with the Montana Conservation Corps to place gravel on the Family Trail. The June National Trails Day event was enjoyable. Trail maintenance is wrapping up and MCC will be requesting a Recreational Trail Program (RTP) reimbursement soon. MCC will not be requesting a RTP grant in the future.

Events – The Herron Half took place in June – a ½ marathon & 10 K run. There was a concern regarding a locked gate and Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett stated that any request for gate access needs to be indicated on the Permit Application. Mr. Jewett requested that the gate be padlocked during trail maintenance and/or other activities so vehicles don't get caught inside the gate. There was discussion regarding changing the lock from a padlock to a keyed entry.

A signing plan is in progress and new maps were distributed.

July 11th is the closing on an additional 50 acres that will eventually be added to Herron Park. The land will be held by FTBT to use as a land match in a grant application and will then be transferred to Flathead County.

Spartan Race – Mr. Kipp expressed a concern about the condition of Herron Park if the Spartan Race occurs there. Use of the park for this event has been questioned by donors with the implication that they may not be interested in future contributions. "Pay to play" was discussed with compensation sufficient to ensure the property will be turned over in as good or better condition than when received. The subject of before and after photos was mentioned.

Kipp pointed out the Spartan Race website catered to participants. He plans to pursue references from past venues including queries regarding compensation. Superintendent Jed Fisher asked Kipp to coordinate with the Parks Department office staff as they have already been checking references.

Mr. Fisher reported that adjacent landowners Dallas and Gordon Herron were contacted and will work with the County on the more invasive activities such as mud holes in the old gravel pit. Mr. Oftedahl is supportive and will work with the County on parking needs. The Department is working on a major use fee schedule.

Overall, the desire of all parties is to have a successful event with low impact on Herron Park.

Lakeside Advisory Report

Volunteer Park – Tamara Tanberg reported that they are still working on a list of volunteers for the required training. No one showed up for the recent training program at the Parks Department office so it was decided to take the training to the volunteers.

There are two dead trees at the park. An arborist came to review the situation but was unable to provide definitive information. DNRC will be contacted next week. It may be necessary to obtain a permit to remove the trees. Superintendent Jed Fisher will notify Bruce Ennis of the situation.

Installation of the flashing beacon at Adams Street will occur in late spring and there is an effort to hasten this date to accommodate summer traffic.

Middle Forks Advisory Committee

There was no one present.

Other Business

Board Meetings Method of Documentation – Superintendent Jed Fisher reviewed the importance of good documentation and asked the Board to evaluate the possibility of videotaping and/or recording the board meetings. With the camera on there is no doubt about who said what. He pointed out that the taxpayers recently spent a substantial amount of money defending what should have been a clear issue. For the present time board members opted to continue without audiovisual and will take the matter under advisement.

Weed Department GPS Units – Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the GPS units are working and producing spray reports.

Adjourn

Jim Buechle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50AM.

Pete Woll seconded the motion

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

The time and place of the next regular meeting is Monday, August 6, 2012 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.